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REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1953



CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

of the

68000



WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

D.J. Maidment, Esq., J.P.

Members:

J. Ager, Esq.

G. Clarke, Esq.

W. Haywood, Esq.

T.R. Mott, Esq., C.C.

Mrs. J.N. Pelly.

S.J. Soar, Esq.

C.A. Walker, Esq., J.P. (ex-officio).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

A.P. KALRA, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H. (Deceased
February 1953).

Acting Medical Officer of Health:

J.S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Acting from March 1953).

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E.H.C. WADHAMS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

H.R.D. SCOTT, M.S.I.A.

Clerical Assistant:

R.G. CHAPMAN.

Public Health Offices,

Town Hall,

Braintree.

May, 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

In presenting this Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of your District, I wish to draw attention to the following items.

The Birth Rate is increased to 15.2 per 1,000 against the figure of 14.3 for 1952. The Death Rate is slightly higher, being 10.4 as against 9.002 for the last year.

Cases of Infectious Disease have been few. The figures for cases of Tuberculosis shows no increase.

The Council's building programme has been carried out and their attention is now drawn to the necessity for Slum Clearance and the improvement of existing houses. It now becomes the duty of the Council to formulate a plan to deal with this problem. This will, of course, entail the rehousing of tenants from property to be demolished. Owner occupiers and employers of labour in tied cottages will probably be anxious to avail themselves of the grant offered to modernise their houses. Sub-standard houses to let may not receive such attention from their owners and it may be necessary for the Council, in order to complete the programme, to purchase the same, and either reconstruct them up to the standard of modern requirements or temporarily repair them until the time comes for their demolition. There must, however, remain many small houses without modern amenities and, as these will be the only dwellings that can be let at a low rent, or purchased at a low figure, they will serve a useful purpose, providing that their structure is maintained in a sound and satisfactory condition.

Once again, I wish to thank all members of the Council and their staff for the consideration and courtesy that I have received during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.S. RANSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Witham.

April, 1955.

to the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Witham.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, my report upon the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1953, with details of the public services administered by my Department.

Owing to my long illness during 1954, extreme pressure of work, and the very great demands on the meat inspection service after decontrol, it has been impossible to prepare the Report for earlier submission. In tendering my regret at this, I would also like to apologise to the Acting Medical Officer of Health and the Clerk of the Council who have had the invidious task of excusing the non-appearance of the Report to the officers of the various Government Departments concerned. I would also like to acknowledge the work of my Clerical Assistant, Mr. R.G. Chapman, without whose unstinted efforts in the last few weeks, the Report, in present circumstances, could not have been completed at all.

The year 1953 was notable, from the Department's point of view, for the completion of the Rivenhall Sewerage Scheme, and the increased momentum of the Council's policy of improving existing housing conditions. As to the former, the district is now wholly Urban in amenity, as well as status, as the area contains no community of any size lacking mains water and sewer services. The resulting improvements in the Rivenhall area will amply justify the Council's policy.

As to housing, by steady work during the post-war years, the Council has to some extent forestalled the present Government drive for all-round improvement of housing conditions. The worst of the sub-standard houses have already been dealt with, and the task ahead, though considerable, is not of alarming proportions.

The public cleansing and sewage disposal services have been maintained efficiently, though inadequacy of unskilled labour is still a problem. It was also disappointing that the long-needed extension of the Witham Sewage Works could not be commenced during the year.

Once again, I would like to pay my warmest tribute to the Council and the Public Health Committee for the support and encouragement I have received, and to the assistance and co-operation so readily given to my Department by the Clerk of the Council and the other officers. My special thanks are also due to my Assistants, Mr. Scott and Mr. Chapman, and to all the staff of my Department for their loyal support and hard work throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

1.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.Witham
U.D.C.England
&
Wales.

Area (in acres)
 Population (Registrar-General's estimate)
 Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books
 Rateable Value
 Sum represented by a penny rate

7,329
 8,633
 2,570
 £49,281
 £186

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births - Legitimate	126	62	64
Illegitimate	6	4	2
Still Births	1	-	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population
 Birth Rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.09
 Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)

15.2
 16.5
 7.5

15.5
 22.4

Deaths (Registrar-General's estimate)
 Death Rate per 1,000 resident population
 Death Rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.01
 Deaths of infants under 1 year of age
 Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000
 live births)
 Death Rate of legitimate infants (per 1,000 legitimate
 live births)
 Death Rate of illegitimate infants (per 1,000
 illegitimate live births)

90
 10.4
 10.5
 1
 7.5
 7.9
 0

11.4
 26.8

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)
 Deaths from Measles (all ages)
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)

13
 0
 0

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE GROUPS DURING

1953.

(Registered and Transferred).

Age Group.	Registered.	No. of Deaths Transferred.
Under 1 year 	-	1.
1 and under 2 years 	-	-
2 and under 5 years 	-	-
5 and under 15 years 	-	-
15 and under 25 years 	-	-
25 and under 35 years 	2	-
35 and under 45 years 	1	1
45 and under 55 years 	5	5
55 and under 65 years 	6	7
65 and under 75 years 	13	9
75 and upwards 	25	15
TOTAL	52	38

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1953.

The Table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

Cause of Death.					Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	3	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	-	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	2	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	4	4
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	5	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	10	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	10	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	2	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	-	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	9	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	-	-
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-
All causes					53	37

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1953:-

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11.	-	-
Whooping Cough	87.	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	8.	-	-
Erysipelas	2.	-	-
Dysentery	5.	-	-
Measles	15.	1.	-
Infective Hepatitis	1.	-	-
Totals	129.	1.	-

Food Poisoning: There were no cases of Food Poisoning during 1953.

TUBERCULOSIS - CASES NOTIFIED DURING
1953.

Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5 years	-	-	-	-
5 and under 10 years	-	-	-	1
10 and under 15 years	1	-	-	-
15 and under 20 years	3	-	-	-
20 and under 25 years	2	-	-	-
25 and under 35 years	2	1	-	1
35 and under 45 years	2	-	-	-
45 and under 55 years	2	-	-	-
55 and under 65 years	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-
Total	12	1	-	2

Of these cases, two were of cases re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary ...	...	Male	3.
		Female	-
Non-pulmonary	...	Male	-
		Female	-
		Total	<u>3</u>

3.

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

During the year, the Council sought and obtained a Justice's Order under this Section, for the removal to hospital of an aged woman, who, apart from being old and infirm, was in need of medical and nursing attention. Aged 92, being without relatives, and living alone in a terrace house, she was quite incapable of ministering to her own needs, and her use of paraffin stoves and candles was a danger to herself and her neighbours. She was admitted to St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford, and later transferred to the Essex County Council Hostel at Maldon, where she died.

HOUSING.

The Council continued its building programme throughout the year, during which a further 78 houses, including 24 aged persons' bungalows, were completed. In the same period, 12 houses were erected by private enterprise. At the end of December, there were 105 Council Houses and 7 private houses under construction. The number of new houses erected in the Urban District since the end of the war is as follows:-

By the Local Authority	385 (includes 84 prefabricated bungalows).
By private enterprise	83

The number of applicants for Council Houses was 197 at the end of 1953, compared with 247 at 31st. December, 1952. In addition, there were 38 applications for aged persons' bungalows. The Council's immediate programme includes considerable extension of the new Howbridge Estate, and the erection of a new small estate at Rivenhall Oak. Commencement of the latter had to be deferred until 1954, though a separate contract for six agricultural houses on the estate was completed.

In addition, the first of a proposed series of schemes for the improvement of pre-war Council Houses was completed, 52 houses being provided with hot water systems, modern wash coppers and lavatory basins. The Council proposes to undertake the modernisation of all the older houses in due course.

Increased progress was made with regard to sub-standard properties during the year. Action was taken to deal with 36 dwellings, or parts of dwellings, as under:-

(a) By Clearance Order:	5 houses.	Order confirmed in respect of 3. Undertaking to make fit accepted for 2.
(b) By Compulsory Purchase Order.	4 houses.	Order confirmed.
(c) By Demolition Order.	17 houses.	Orders made on 5 houses. Action suspended on 3 houses. Undertaking to make fit accepted on 3 houses. Voluntary demolition undertaking on 3 houses. Under consideration at 31.12.53 3 houses.
(d) By Closing Order.	4 houses.	Orders made on 3 parts of houses. One Order pending 31.12.1953.
(e) By Undertaking not to re-let pending demolition.	6 houses.	Undertaking accepted.

In addition, the owners of a group of bungalows classified as temporary structures, were notified of the Council's requirements regarding repair, water supply and sanitary accommodation, and informed that unless the properties were

brought into good condition within three years, the Council would consider determining the temporary building approvals.

A proposal on the Council's part to provide economic temporary accommodation for the rehabilitation of certain problem families, by the erection of stout wooden bungalows on a suitable site, could not be effected, as the required approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, though urgently sought, was not forthcoming during the time the bungalows were available for purchase.

Nine families were rehoused by the Council from condemned dwellings, leaving 17 such dwellings occupied at 31.12.1953, compared with 18 at 31.12.1952.

The following table gives a summary of action taken in connection with the inspection of houses during 1953:-

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:

(a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	80.
(b) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	22.
(c) Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	27.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:

(a) Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers	13.
(b) Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority or its Officers	28.

3. Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Act, 1936:

(a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(b) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil.
(c) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3.
(d) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5.
(e) Number of undertakings accepted	14.

4. Action under Statutory Powers - Public Health Act, 1936:

(a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(b) Number of houses in which defects were remedied under service of formal notice	Nil.

5. Number of dwellinghouses demolished:

(a) In pursuance of Clearance Orders	3.
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(b) In pursuance of Demolition Orders	1.
(c) Voluntarily by owners	2.

6. HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Demolition Orders quashed upon houses being made fit ... Nil.

WATER SUPPLY.

There was no change in the sources of the Public supply in the Urban District; the Council's Braintree Road Waterworks supply (deep borehole); the South Essex Water Company's supply from the Abberton impounding reservoir; and the Bradwell Springs supply (deep spring) operated by the Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Silver End and Rivenhall are fed by the Bradwell Springs undertaking, while the remainder of the district normally receives a mixture of all three supplies. All supplies undergo chloramination at the source. During part of 1953, however, the Braintree Road works was out of operation owing to pump breakdown, during which time the district's requirements were met by augmented supplies from the South Essex Water Company, with whom the Council have a reservation ensuring ample water for the present and expected needs of the Urban District.

Quality and quantity have been uniformly satisfactory throughout the year. Loss of pressure due to inadequacy of mains, previously reported, was remedied by the extension of the new ring main system from Powers Hall End to the Howbridge Estate. All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being put into use.

Samples, submitted periodically for bacteriological and chemical examination, showed that all supplies at the source were pure and wholesome. High bacterial counts in samples from a new housing estate were eliminated by chlorination of the service mains. Temporary contamination of the Bradwell Springs supply, which occurred in 1952, was not experienced in 1953, indicating the success of measures undertaken by the proprietary Company to regulate pumping rates and ensure uninterrupted chlorination of the supply. At the close of the year, the Council were negotiating with the Company for the purchase of this supply undertaking.

In addition to the trunk main extension mentioned above, the Council laid a 3" main to the Blue Mills/Isham's Chase area, one of the few remaining small communities not hitherto served by mains supply. Considerable mains extensions were also necessary, of course, to serve the fast developing Howbridge Estate.

House Connections, etc.

Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District	...	...	...	...	2570.
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply	...	...	...	...	2468.
Estimated population so served	...	...	...	...	8310.
Number of separate dwellings connected during the year	...	...	...	...	92.
Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe	...	...	...	...	55.
Estimated population so served	...	...	...	...	176.
Remaining houses served by shallow wells, springs or cartage	...	...	...	...	47.
Estimated population so served	...	...	...	...	147.

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year.

3 in.	...	...	...	...	...	1,046 yards.
4 in.	...	...	...	...	...	480 yards.
6 in.	...	...	...	...	...	80 yards.
8 in.	...	...	...	...	...	650 yards.
9 in.	...	...	...	...	...	1,090 yards.

Water Consumption and Future Requirements:

Total water supplied by:

1. Braintree Road Water works	...	...	850,000 gallons.
2. Bradwell Springs:			
(a) To Silver End (estimated)		28,000,000 gallons.	
(b) To remainder of Urban District		57,535,000 gallons.	
3. South Essex Water Company:			
(a) By Trunk Main	...	...	54,366,740 gallons.
(b) By Braintree R.D.C. main			<u> -</u>
Total consumption			<u>148,402,740 gallons.</u>

Average consumption per head per day:

Domestic demand	...	...	...	...	30.80 gallons.
Trade demand	...	...	...	...	18.59 gallons.
Average total consumption per head					
per day	...				49.39 gallons.

The average consumption shows a decrease of 1.58 gallons per head per day, but this may be accounted for by more accurate assessment this year of the Silver End consumption.

Sampling:

The following Table shows the number of samples submitted for examination:-

				<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. <u>Mains Water.</u>						
Chemical	...	...	...	6.	-	6.
Bacteriological	...	...	...	32.	3.	35.
2. <u>Other Samples.</u>						
Chemical	...	...	...	2.	1.	3.
Bacteriological	...	...	...	5.	4.	9.
Totals				<u>45.</u>	<u>8.</u>	<u>53.</u>

The unsatisfactory bacteriological reports on mains water were due to

- (a) in two cases, high bacterial counts from new service mains, mentioned previously;
- (b) in one case, (the Braintree Road supply) to permeation of surface and subsoil water into pump borehole while the bore was out of use. Continued pumping remedied this condition.

The unsatisfactory reports on other supplies related to three private supplies as under:-

- (a) Spring supply tapped to serve three houses. Residual contamination of supply from pollution largely remedied during 1952. Subsequent samples proved satisfactory.
- (b) Two private well supplies. In view of the very adverse reports, the owner/occupiers were warned that the water should be boiled before consumption, and asked to effect connection to the Council's mains.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The following Table shows the drainage facilities in use in the district at 31st. December, 1953:-

Houses with	Drainage to						TOTALS.
	Sewer.	Septic Tanks etc.	Cesspools.	Ditches via Cesspools.	Direct to Ditches.	No Drainage.	
W.C's, Sinks and Drains	2378.	7.	28.	8.	-	-	2421.
W.C's, Gulley Drains, no Sinks.	7.	-	-	-	-	-	7.
Pail Closets, Sinks and Drains.	-	-	47.	30.	35.	-	112.
Pail Closets and Sinks.	-	-	-	-	-	2.	2.
Pail Closets and Gulley Drains only.	-	-	-	-	8.	-	8.
Privies and Gulley Drains only.	-	-	-	-	6.	-	6.
Pail Closets, no Sinks or Drains.	-	-	-	-	-	12.	12.
Privies, no Sinks or Drains.	-	-	-	-	-	2.	2.
Totals	2385.	7.	75.	38.	49.	16.	2570.

Of the 185 properties not at present connected to the sewer, a few are capable of immediate connection, and the sewerage scheme for Rivenhall, now completed, provides for the connection of a further 68 existing dwellinghouses. Prospective future development along the lines at present suggested should allow for the serving of another 20-30 existing houses. There will then remain 80-90 agricultural and isolated properties for which no economic sewerage scheme appears to be possible. The Council already provides a free emptying service for domestic

cesspools, three times annually, and additional emptying, when required, on repayment. This service is also available to industrial and agricultural premises not connected to the sewer systems.

The existing sewer systems at Witham and Silver End are both liable to surcharging at times of heavy rainfall.

The following extensions to the Council's sewers were laid during the year:-

4 in.	...	...	...	43 yards.
6 in.	...	...	...	3607 yards.

The large extension of 6" sewer includes the major part of the Rivenhall sewer scheme, commenced in 1952. A further length of 6" sewer was laid in Bears Tye Road, Silver End, to eliminate a sewer ditch which had caused nuisance over a long period.

It has been noticeable that since sewer flushing was recommenced on the acquisition of the cesspool emptying vehicle, major blockages of the mains sewer systems have not occurred, in contrast to previous years when flushing was not practised.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are now four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three owned by the Council and one administered by the Ministry of Works for the National Assistance Board. The three Urban District Sewage Works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall, and the fourth plant treats sewage from the Board's Hostel for Displaced Persons at Rivenhall Aerodrome Camp.

The Rivenhall Works, completed during the year in conjunction with the sewer scheme for this area, marks the achievement of a very necessary and worthwhile improvement in local services. There now remains no community of any size in the Urban District not served by mains water, sewer and sewage disposal facilities.

Witham Sewage Works:

Details of the layout and capacity of this plant have been given in previous reports. No major alterations or improvement has been made and the flow to the works continues to increase with the development of the town.

Despite all the Council's efforts, approval could not be obtained during the year for the commencement of the much needed works extension scheme. The scheme provides for a first stage extension to serve the existing population of the town and has been a major need for a number of years. The existing plant fails to effect satisfactory or consistent purification. It is hoped that work will be put in hand on this scheme during the coming year.

At this plant, as at Silver End, undesirable effect was evident on account of the greatly increased use of synthetic washing compounds. Although froth formation at effluent outfalls reached high proportions, no unduly adverse effect

on sewage purification or river purity was noticed.

Little difficulty was experienced with trade constituents in the sewage during the year. The plant installed by the Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd., in June, 1949, continued to operate satisfactorily.

Farmland:

The 1952-53 cropping season produced very satisfactory results, and a net profit to the Council of £335 from the $21\frac{3}{4}$ acres under cultivation. The crops produced were wheat (10 acres), flax ($4\frac{1}{4}$ acres) and clover ($7\frac{1}{2}$ acres). For the 1953-54 season, crops of wheat and flax were intended. It is also hoped to commence cultivation of a part of the completed refuse tip, as an experiment.

The farmland at these works has been cultivated by the Council for six years. The following Table shows briefly the net financial return for the six cropping seasons:-

Season.	Crops.	Profit.			Loss.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1947-48.	Wheat, Potatoes.	63.	7.	10.	-	-	-
1948-49.	Barley, Potatoes.	294.	1.	4.	-	-	-
1949-50.	Wheat.	2.	19.	-.	-	-	-
1950-51.	Clover, Mangold, Flax.	-	-	-	58.	7.	7.
1951-52.	Flax, Wheat.	128.	19.	3.	-	-	-
1952-53.	Wheat, Clover, Flax.	335.	3.	-.	-	-	-
		£824.	10.	5.	£58.	7.	7.

Net Profit £766. 2s. 10d.

Net annual profit £127.13s. 10d.

The annual profit figure compares with the annual rent of £33. 12s. 6d. which the Council previously received when this land was leased to a local farmer.

Silver End Sewage Works:

This plant, described in detail in previous reports, serves the community of Silver End, a population of about 2,000. The secondary filters, which were added after completion of the original design, are situated below the humus tanks, thus allowing no facility for removal of secondary humus. Increased flows over the last ten years, due to development and a large trade flow, involve overloading of the plant at peak periods and in wet weather. The Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing a scheme of extension and improvement to cope with present and expected development and with the effect of trade discharges. The latter are of a nature and quantity of some concern to the Council, as the degree of purification has been adversely affected by them.

The average dry weather flow to the works, gauged during the year, is 95,000 gallons daily. This rate of flow involves a theoretical settlement period of 12-13 hours retention, with dosage to the primary filters of 105

gallons and to the secondary filters of 320 gallons per cubic yard per day. The resulting standard of purification is generally satisfactory, but is deteriorating due to the foregoing causes.

Because of a change from D.C. to A.C. in the Silver End area electricity supply, new A.C. motors and starting gear were fitted by the Eastern Electricity Board during the year. These are operating satisfactorily.

Rivenhall Camp Sewage Works:

This plant, constructed during the war to serve the Aerodrome, now treats the sewage from some hundreds of displaced persons occupying the camp under the control of the National Assistance Board.

The plant is not working to capacity and has maintained an efficient standard of treatment.

Rivenhall End Sewage Works:

This plant was completed and taken into operation on 24.9.1953. Designed by Messrs. Pick, Everard, Keay & Gimson, the Council's Consulting Engineers, as part of the new sewerage scheme for the Rivenhall area, it suffers from none of the complications usually experienced in constructing a new treatment works to an old sewer system. It is therefore simple and straightforward in design and of pleasing layout.

Because of the sewer levels dictated by the drainage area, all the sewage flow is directed to a pumping station, whence by duplicate 9 H.P. pumps, electrically operated, it passes to the head of the treatment plant. Here it enters a single dosing chamber (with storm overflow to twin storm tanks) which regulate the flow to a detritus chamber and thence to a single settling tank of vertical flow type. A single dosing siphon passes the flow from this tank to the one aerating filter, from which the effluent proceeds to twin humus tanks and thence to the river Blackwater. Capacity and data are listed below:-

Detritus Tank	= 350 gallons, equivalent to 1/50 d.w.f.
Screens	= 6 sq. feet.
Settling Tank	= 9,000 gallons (12 hours d.w.f.).
Rotary Filter	= 360 cu. yards (50 gals. per c. yd. per day).
Humus Tanks (2)	= 3,000 gallons (4 hours d.w.f.).
Storm Tanks (2)	= 4,500 gallons (6 hours d.w.f.).
Sludge Beds (4)	= 120 sq. yards (1 sq. yd. per 5 person).
Designed D.W.F.	= 18,000 gallons per day (600 population at 30 gals. per h.p.d.)
Present Population	= 350 approx. (estimated future population 600).
Maximum rate of flow to be received	= 108,000 g.p.d. (6 x D.W.F.).
Separation of Stormwater	= 54,000 g.p.d. (3 x D.W.F.).

It was somewhat regrettable that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, before granting approval to the scheme, vetoed the originally prepared two-line system for reasons of cost. A serious breakdown of one of the single units on the line of treatment could therefore within a short time, involve the discharge to the river of crude or semi purified sewage. However, the plant shows every promise of working efficiently, and serious breakdown is most unlikely.

Sampling of Sewage, Effluents, etc.

Fifty-eight samples of effluent were submitted for analysis, and the results were as follows:-

		<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Witham Sewage Works	...	27.	25.	52.
Silver End Sewage Works	...	4.	2.	6.
		<hr/>		
Totals	...	31.	27.	58.
		<hr/>		

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

During the year the following industrial wastes have been dealt with:-

- (a) Witham: Galvanising Wastes: By agreement with Company concerned. This has been operating successfully since 1949 and no adverse effects have been occasioned to sewers or treatment processes since that time. The Council disposes annually of some 550,000 gallons of waste sludge, on the Company's behalf.
- (various)
- Flour Mill Washings: By agreement arranged during the year, the Milling Company have installed treatment plant to remove undesirable constituents, and, in addition, pay to the Council a nominal charge for the receipt of the residual flows and to cover the cost of periodic analysis of samples.
- Gas Holder Liquor: By arrangement with the Council, the Eastern Gas Board were allowed to discharge some 200,000 gallons of this waste to the Council's sewers, at periods of low flow. The Board met a small charge to cover reception of the waste and incidental analysis costs.
- Fruit Juice Processes: Investigation of wastes created by this local industry, and means of control and disposal, was in hand at December 31st.

(b) Silver End: Various Wastes from
light metal
industry:

Investigation of the trade waste content of the Silver End sewage, which has been unsatisfactory over a period of years, is in hand. The varied character of the wastes precludes any single solution, but it is hoped that agreement can be reached on methods of control and disposal.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The rivers Blackwater and Brain, with tributary streams, pass through the Urban District and contribute appreciably to its natural beauty. The Council is anxious that these water courses shall not become fouled, and my Department has maintained close liaison with the Essex River Board which is now the responsible authority for pollution prevention, and with the Southend Waterworks Company which draws river water for its supply, and is therefore equally anxious to prevent pollution.

Two major problems were investigated during the year, as follows:-

- (a) Organic Pollution: This was due to a mixture of sewage and industrial organic wastes. By diversion of some of the flows to the sewer system and by land irrigation of certain wastes, a considerable improvement in the condition of the stream was achieved. Further improvement will be possible when the development of the proposed industrial estate enables additional flows to be diverted to the sewer system.
- (b) Oil Pollution: Caused by the discharge of large quantities of oil via a surface water sewer outfall. The Company from whose premises the oil originated, carried out drainage improvements and the installation of an oil interceptor, with successful results.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Of the Public Cleansing services, that of street scavenging, including sweeping, road gritting and snow clearing, is carried out by the Essex County Council and the Urban Council's Highways Department.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing, are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection.

The collection of house refuse for the whole of the Urban District has been maintained during the year, providing a weekly collection from all parts of the area.

There are now two vehicles operating this service: the 8 cubic yard S.D. freighter, and the 11 cubic yard S.D. "W" type vehicle. The latter is used for two days per week on collection.

Disposal.

Tipping has continued throughout the year on the Council's land adjoining the river Blackwater, where marshland is being made up. It is hoped by tipping in this area, to add some ten acres of useful agricultural land to that now farmed at the adjoining sewage works. Tipping capacity here will satisfy disposal requirements for the next five to six years, according to the rate of development of the district, but if development takes place at the rate and to the degree envisaged in the present Town Planning proposals, a large scale disposal scheme will have to be prepared shortly to provide for the needs of the enlarged town. The County Planning authority has been notified of a provisional requirement of an additional 29 acres of marshland tip space to be included in the first quinquennial review of the Witham Town Map.

Salvage.

Collection of salvage is effected in conjunction with house refuse collection, with the exception that a special collection is made weekly from trade premises. Figures for the 1953-54 financial year, given below, show an increase in tonnage and income. A profit of £301 accrued to the Council, after bonus of £406. 11s. was paid to the collection staff. Considerable expenditure was incurred in providing extensions to the Depot at Maldon Road.

Commodity.	1951-52.					1952-53.					1953-54.							
	Weight.			Value.		Weights.			Value.		Weights.			Value.				
	t.	c.	q.	£.	s.	d.	t.	c.	q.	£.	s.	d.	t.	c.	q.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	86.	1.	0.	1575.	15.	8.	99.	14.	1.	870.	6.	10.	141.	7.	1.	1063.	11.	6.
Bones	4.	10.	0.	42.	11.	3.	4.	18.	2.	27.	8.	0.	3.	13.	3.	19.	8.	11.
Rags	3.	3.	0.	92.	2.	1.	3.	4.	0.	92.	12.	10.	3.	6.	0.	106.	2.	6.
Sacking	4.	12.	3.	68.	4.	9.	4.	14.	0.	21.	18.	9.	3.	19.	2.	24.	17.	6.
Iron.	60.	0.	0.	234.	18.	2.	92.	19.	0.	413.	6.	4.	68.	9.	3.	280.	8.	3.
Metals	17.	2.		62.	0.	3.	16.	0.		78.	10.	2.	19.	3.		86.	15.	1.
Jars	2.	10.	0.	17.	5.	6.	3.	9.	0.	22.	7.	4.	2.	3.	0.	14.	17.	4.
Bottles	4.	14.	0.	27.	9.	1.	4.	0.	0.	17.	1.	10.	2.	10.	0.	13.	10.	10.
Misc.				2.	5.	10.				7.	3.	11.				3.	10.	3.
Totals	166.	8.	1.	2122.	12.	7.	213.	14.	3.	1550.	16.	0.	226.	9.	0.	1613.	2.	2.

Cesspool, Gulley Emptying and Sewer Flushing.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptier during the year:-

Domestic emptyings (free service)	140 cesspools, 156 loads.
Rechargeable work	112 cesspools, 200 loads.
Trade Waste	487 loads.

In addition, the sewer systems of the district were flushed on three occasions and the road gulleys on all district roads were cleansed on three occasions.

COSTS.

Total net cost of refuse collection, disposal and salvage (detailed in the Table below) rose during the year by £753.

Refuse Collection, Disposal and Salvage:

Table showing costs for year ending 31st. March, 1954:-

					Total collection and disposal costs with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.					
					Included.			Excluded.		
					£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
A. Gross Expenditure	...	...	...	...	5819.	9.	4.	5362.	3.	8.
B. Gross Income	...	...	...	...	1673.	12.	9.	1673.	12.	9.
C. Net Cost	...	...	...	...	4145.	16.	7.	3688.	10.	11.
<u>Unit Costs.</u>										
D. Net cost per ton	...	...	...	...	1.	16.	10.	1.	12.	10.
E. Net cost per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	480.	4.	7.	427.	5.	2.
F. Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	...	1522.	10.	5.	1354.	14.	10.
<u>Rate Poundage.</u>										
G. Net cost, equivalent rate in £.	...	...	...	...	22.28d.			19.83d.		
H. Percentage of (G) to total rate in £.	...	...	...	...	7.42			6.61		

1. Total refuse collected and disposed of in tons (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2247.
2. Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8633.
3. Area (statute acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7329.
4. Weight in cwts. (per 1,000 population) per day (365 days to year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12½.
5. Number of houses and premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2723.
6. Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£49,281.
7. Produce of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£186.
8. Total rates in £1.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25s.0d.
9. Method of collection - mechanical vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
10. Method of Tipping. Controlled tipping i.e. on lines of Ministry's precautions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100%
11. Average length of journey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 miles.
12. Percentage of refuse collected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A total of 4,852 visits and inspections were made during the year, as follows:-

Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	222.
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144.
Verminous Premises: Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	443.
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41.
Complaints (other than dwellinghouses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31.
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	842.
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41.
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53.
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.
Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Sampling: Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44.
Sewage Effluent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56.
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42.
Infectious Disease: Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25.
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.
Streams and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.
Drains and Sewers: Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197.
Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.
Cesspools, Septic Tanks and Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151.
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	190.
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117.
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1764.
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.
Stables and Pig Styes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Places of Amusement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135.

In addition, a total of 1,173 interviews were given to owners, builders, tenants and other interested parties.

Nuisances, etc., on Books, with Number of Notices served.
(Public Health Acts only).

Number of Notices outstanding, 31st. December 1952.	...	...	...	15.
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year	...	...	...	79.
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year	...	...	...	1.
Number of Notices complied with during the year	...	...	...	85.
Number of Notices outstanding on Books, 31st. December, 1953,	...	...	...	10.

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

Dampness, rising and penetrative	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.P's. etc.	...	...	...	...	...	18.
Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Defective ceilings and walls	...	...	...	...	...	8.
Defective doors, windows and floors	...	...	...	...	...	8.
Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Defective yard/access paving	...	...	...	...	...	14.
Defective W.C. structures	...	...	...	...	...	8.
Defective W.C. fittings	...	...	...	...	...	12.
Defective sinks, waste pipes etc.	...	...	...	...	...	10.
Drainage defects	...	...	...	...	...	56.
Defective vent pipes	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Inadequate means for disposal of roof water	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Defective cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Disused cesspools sealed	...	...	...	...	...	12.
Defective water service	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Dirty/Offensive condition of premises	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Offensive ditches	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Nuisance from keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	1.
Nuisance from keeping of pigeons	...	...	...	...	...	1.
Absence of/Defective condition of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	29.
Infestations: Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	187.
Vermin and insects	...	...	...	...	...	98.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year, a total of 42 visits were paid to factories and workshops throughout the district, which figure does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. New sanitary accommodation has been required at three factories and two building sites. At one factory, the required Certificate as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire was with-held until additional escape measures had been provided. The very defective and insanitary conditions at another factory were temporarily remedied, pending the removal of this firm to a new building. At the end of 1953, the number of outworkers on the register was 477, comprising

	<u>Witham U.D.C.</u>	<u>Other Local Authorities.</u>
Glove Manufacturers	82.	388.
Seed Merchants	7.	

Notification of outworkers employed in other districts is made to the local authorities concerned.

Details of the inspections made during the year to premises in the Urban District under the Factories Act, 1937, are given in the Table below:-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	5.	2.	3.	Nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	44.	34.	Nil.	Nil.
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	3.	6.	2.	Nil.
TOTAL	52.	42.	5.	Nil.

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)---					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	6	-	2	-

SHOPS ACTS.

In September, the Council accepted from the Essex County Council the delegation of additional powers governing the enforcement of sub-sections 3,4 & 5, of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, and appointed the Council's Sanitary Inspectors as authorised officers to carry out the necessary additional duties.

Nineteen visits were paid to Shops during the year, apart from inspections for purposes other than Shops Act administration. The following matters were dealt with:-

Inadequate washing facilities	1.
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	3.
Dampness	1.
Defective drainage	1.
General repairs	2.
Lack of cleanliness	4.
Shop reconditioning and modernisation ..	2.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

As in previous years, a number of caravans were stationed within the Urban District, and difficulty was experienced because suitable sites, with adequate

water supply and waste disposal facilities, are not readily available. In two cases conditions were so unsatisfactory that they could only be met by the rehousing of the van occupiers by the Council, and the demolition of the vans.

The Council had commenced work in December 1953, on the provision of a small properly equipped caravan site, where it is proposed to allow up to one dozen trailer caravans, on individual sites, at economic rents.

Under the Witham Urban District (Moveable Dwellings and Camping Grounds) Order, 1950, there were six vans licensed on four sites at the end of the year. In all cases, before licences are issued, the Council has to be satisfied with facilities for water supply, hard standing, refuse disposal and sanitary accommodation.

In one case, a ~~dispossessed~~ family was found living in an improvised tent in a gravel pit. No facilities whatever were available. The co-operation of the Essex County Council Health and Welfare Services were enlisted to arrange in-patient care for a woman and newly born child, and after repeated unsuccessful attempts to contact the man, the tent and its meagre contents were removed.

INSECT PESTS.

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Wasps	...	...	...	1.	Woodworm	...	...	...	73.	Flies	...	...	2.
Lice	...	...	...	1.	Carpet beetles	...	...	...	4.	Ants	...	...	14.
Bed Bugs	...	...	...	1.	Mosquitoes	...	...	...	1.				

The large number of woodworm cases was found mainly in the Council Housing Estates, where a survey of the older houses revealed a high incidence of this pest. Following a special report to the Housing Committee, a standard procedure was adopted and the tenants have been encouraged by a free treatment service, to notify infestations quickly.

In addition, the Council's refuse tips are periodically treated to destroy crickets and other insects. Insecticides used are D.D.T. (5%) and gamma hexane, both in liquid and powder form, and cyanide preparations. The latter are used only in cases where the safety of human beings and domestic animals can be ensured. Also for minor household infestations, chiefly by flies of various kinds, a pyrethrum compound giving a quick "knock-down" effect is used.

In one case, the Department was called upon to deal with a large number of disowned pigeons which were causing a nuisance on a Council estate.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council conducts its own Rodent Control service, using a specially trained operative for the purpose. The work has been carried out in co-operation with the pest control department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Details of the year's work are as follows:-

Inspections made	...	...	...	975.
Treatment visits	...	...	...	992.
Infestations found:-				
Mice	...	...	...	11.
Minor	...	...	...	171.
Major	...	...	...	3.
Reservoir	...	...	...	2.
Bodies recovered:-				
Mice	...	...	...	72.
Rats	...	...	...	792.
Estimated kill:-				
Rats	...	...	...	1403.

The whole of the District sewer system was treated with satisfactory results. The Silver End system was treated twice, but intimation was received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries that owing to the good results obtained at Witham, there was no need for the second treatment there. The following are the details of the treatments carried out.

	<u>Witham.</u>	<u>Silver End.</u>	
		<u>1st.</u>	<u>2nd.</u>
		<u>treatment.</u>	<u>treatment</u>
Manholes, test baited.	20.	12.	10.
Manholes, test baited, showing takes.	1.	4.	6.
Manholes, poison baited.	3.	12.	8.
Manholes, poison baited, showing takes.	1.	4.	3.
Bodies recovered	-	5	-

A notable feature was the abnormal autumn infestation of the Council's refuse tip, where over 400 rats were killed in a short time.

A free domestic treatment service is now in operation and is of great assistance in ensuring that my Department is informed of infestation at a very early stage, when they are, of course, much easier to deal with.

To publicise the services available, a successful window exhibition was arranged, with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture. Situated in the main shopping centre, the exhibition attracted considerable attention from all sections of the public.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection:

10,231 animals were killed at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse during the year, an increase of 1,094 on 1952. The present figures compare with those of the pre-war year, 1938, and last year, as follows:-

				<u>1938.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Cattle, excluding cows	...	...	...	710.	1,890.	1,917.
Cows	...	...	...	12.	641.	420.
Calves	...	...	...	135.	1,376.	861.
Sheep and lambs	...	...	...	2,438.	3,529.	3,704.
Pigs	...	...	...	2,266.	1,701.	3,328.
Goats	...	...	...	-	3.	1.
Totals	....	...	...	<u>5,561.</u>	<u>9,140.</u>	<u>10,231</u>

The slaughterhouse serves not only the Witham Urban District, but the adjoining districts of Maldon Rural District, Maldon Borough, Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District and part of Braintree Rural District, comprising a population of about 35,000. As in previous years, much overtime had to be worked by the Council's Inspectors to maintain 100% inspection.

All inspection is carried out on the lines of Memo 62 Foods, issued by the Ministry of Health, with the exception that ante-mortem inspection is not always possible. The high proportion of casualty animals and cows now killed accounts largely for the post-war increase in condemnation.

The year was marked by a considerable increased incidence of Swine Fever, which was discovered on four occasions among pigs sent in for slaughter. The incidence of this disease is known to have been high in the area during the year.

A high incidence of septic polyarthrititis was also noted among young calves.

Forty-eight cases (2.05%) of *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected, and in these cases the Ministry of Food's recommended procedure was adopted, i.e. condemnation of parts known to be affected, and refrigeration of the remainder for at least three weeks before issue. It is a noticeable feature of this disease that it most frequently occurs in young, well-fattened cattle, and is rarely encountered in old animals.

The following Table sets out the particulars of the animals slaughtered and of inspection and condemnation.

		Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Goats.	Total.
Number killed	...	1917.	420.	861.	3704.	3328.	1.	10231.
Number inspected	...	1917.	420.	861.	3704.	3328.	1.	10231.
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis.</u>								
Whole carcases condemned	...	7.	5.	18.	8.	54.	-.	92.
Weight in lbs. condemned	...	4310.	1986.	797.	523.	5657.	-.	13273.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	909.	233.	40.	431.	1813.	-.	3426.
Weight in lbs. condemned	...	15842.	3965.	103.	1248.	8914.	-	30072.
Percentage affected	...	50.39	56.66.	6.73	11.85	56.1	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>								
Whole carcases condemned	...	16.	2.	1.	-	4.	-	23.
Weight in lbs. condemned	...	7985.	1458.	33.	-	707.	-	10183.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	147.	114.	-	-	167.	-	428.
Weight in lbs. condemned	...	7326.	5742.	-	-	2312.	-	15380.
Percentage affected	...	8.5	27.6	.11	-	5.13	-	-

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The local sanitary authority is now responsible only for the supervision of distribution and the registration and licencing of dairies, distributors and dealers. The following local registrations and licences are in force under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested.</u>	<u>Pasteurised.</u>
Dairies	-	3.
Dealers	4.	4.
Supplementary Dealers	2.	2.

In one case during the year, a cowkeeper was found to be using unregistered and unsuitable premises as a cowshed and dairy. In addition, his use of the premises gave rise to offensive conditions and drainage nuisance. The Council, in conjunction with the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, took action which, by refusal of registration and the service of statutory notices under the Public Health Act, resulted in the discontinuance of the dairy business on these premises.

At one local producer's farm, the cowshed and dairy drainage was found to be wholly inadequate and causing nuisance. The producer was required to instal a proper drainage system to water-tight cesspools.

ICE-CREAM.

The registration of manufacturers and vendors, and their premises, is effected by the Urban Council under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. Although two persons are registered as manufacturers within the Urban District, no ice-cream is at present made in the area. The number of registrations at 31st. December, 1953, were as follows:-

Manufacturers/Vendors	2.
Vendors only	29.
Registered Premises	31.

In addition, many vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Every make of ice-cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. Thirty such samples were taken during the year and the results were as follows:-

Bacteriologist's Description.	Fruit Ices.	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading.				Total.
		I.	II.	III.	IV.	
Satisfactory.	5.	19.	3.	-	-	27.
Passable.	-	-	1.	1.	-	2.
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	1.	1.
TOTAL	5.	19.	4.	1.	1.	30

The unsatisfactory report was in respect of a sample of bulk ice-cream. On investigation, it was found that part of the consignment had melted and had been re-frozen, a probable infringement of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. The remainder of the consignment was withdrawn from sale and the dealer warned severely against allowing any recurrence.

HYGIENE OF FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

The number of premises where food is prepared, stored or retailed, is 97, as follows:-

Restaurants	...	...	...	...	10.
Factory and School Canteens	...	...	...	...	9.
Manufacturing Butchers	...	...	...	...	7.
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	5.
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	3.
Retail Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	7.
Other Retail Food Shops	...	...	...	...	34.
Retail Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	4.
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	18.

All are subject to inspection and generally found to satisfy the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. 168 visits of inspection were made during the year. In several cases it was necessary to issue warnings concerning lack of cleanliness and other unsatisfactory conditions. Subsequent improvements rendered it unnecessary to consider formal action in these cases. The Table below shows defects required to be remedied during the year:-

Re-design and modernisation of:

Food Shops	...	...	...	...	2.
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	1.
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	1.
Temporary conversion of warehouse to food shop	...	...	...	...	1.
Structural defects	...	...	...	...	6.
Defective/Inadequate sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	4.
Defective/Inadequate sink drainage facilities	...	...	...	...	7.
Defective/Inadequate hot water and washing facilities	...	...	...	...	6.
Defective/Inadequate refuse storage	...	...	...	...	1.
Inadequate waste removal service	...	...	...	...	1.
Inadequate fly control	...	...	...	...	1.
Lack of cleanliness: Shops	...	...	...	...	3.
Vans	...	...	...	...	2.

Interest in food hygiene among food handlers has been maintained and every effort has been made to foster it.

Prosecution:

One prosecution under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was undertaken by the Council, in conjunction with proceedings taken by the Ministry of Food under the Defence Regulations. The several summonses arose out of the discovery and seizure on a butcher's shop premises, of a large quantity of knacker's meat. This was found (a) in the shop; (b) in the refrigerator; (c) in the shop brine pickling

tub and (d) in the preparation room.

The defendant claimed that the knacker's meat was intended solely for sale as pet food, but the Magistrates held that exposure for sale for human consumption had been proved and imposed fines amounting to £85.

Arising from this case, it is an obvious defect in the law of public health that food unfit for human consumption may nevertheless be retailed for other purposes from shops where human food is handled and sold. The presence of diseased or unsound food on a shop premises is not, in itself, an offence, unless intention of sale for human consumption can be established. Without such evidence, which could in some cases be difficult or impossible to obtain, the unsound food cannot legally be seized, nor the person possessing it prosecuted.

Condemnation of Food (other than Meat):

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the District, a total of 9 cwts. 1 qr. 19 lbs. of food (other than meat) was voluntarily surrendered to and condemned by my Department.

STAFF.

Several changes occurred amongst the manual staff during the year. Details of the Department's staff at 31st. December, 1953, were as follows:-

Office: Chief Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector,
Additional Sanitary Inspector.
Clerical Assistant.

Cleansing: 1 Foreman-driver.
1 Tip-chargehand.
2 Driver/Loaders.
4 Refuse Loaders.
1 Refuse Loader/Gulley Emptyer Attendant.
1 Tip-hand.

Sewage Disposal:

1 Works' Manager.
4 Labourers.
3 Labourers (Part-time).

Other: 1 Disinfector/Rodent Operative (Part-time).

The average age of the permanent outside staff is approximately 51 years.

